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Typed or Printed Name		Martha Cisneros	
Signature			Date January 7, 2003

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116 Address to: Box AF Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Attorney Docket Confirmation No.	GUID-003DIV2 2546
	First Named Inventor	Charles S. Taylor
	Application Number	09/440,106
	Filing Date	November 15, 1999
	Group Art Unit	3736
	Examiner Name	Nasser, Robert L.
	Title	Surgical Devices for Imposing a Negative Pressure to Stabilize Cardiac Tissue During Surgery

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated November 4, 2002 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before February 4, 2003. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Applicant has attached to this amendment a "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made" wherein all of the amendments requested here are put forth with underlining and bracketing.

Applicant submits that the amendments set forth below raise no new issues. Rather, the amendments place the claims in form for allowance or in better form for appeal. Entry of these amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant notes that those claims not amended herein are being reiterated solely for the convenience of the Examiner.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2: (Twice Amended) The device of claim 23 further comprising a means for introducing a negative pressure located between said internal and external walls.

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